

IDAHO GOVERNOR'S SAGE- GROUSE CONSERVATION ALTERNATIVE



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Today's Presentation

- ▣ Leading up to the Governor's Alternative
- ▣ Executive Order
- ▣ The Task Force meeting process
- ▣ Governor's Alternative



Leading up to the Alternative

- ▣ BLM and USFS manage the majority of sage-grouse habitat
- ▣ BLM/USFS EIS – due September 2014
- ▣ Interim conservation measures
- ▣ Secretary of Interior invited states
- ▣ Maintain state's authority of wildlife and maintain multiple uses of public lands.

Executive Order - Task Force

- ▣ March 2012, Idaho Sage-Grouse Task Force through Executive Order - 15-member team
 - Two county commissioners
 - Two state legislators
 - One public at large
 - A sage-grouse local working group
 - Environmental organization (TNC, ICL)
 - Sportsman's organization (Idaho SFW)
 - Ag - Idaho Cattle Association, Farm Bureau, Simplot
 - Energy - Idaho Power, renewables, Monsanto

Executive Order

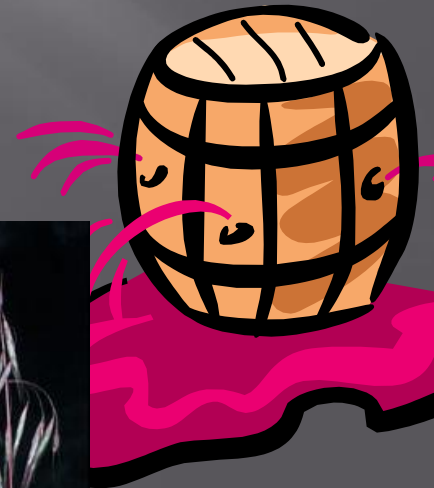
- ▣ Duties – provide recommendations for developing a state-wide regulatory mechanism to preclude the need to list sage-grouse.
- ▣ Advisory
- ▣ Foundation
 - State sage-grouse Advisory Committee
 - Sage-grouse Local Working Groups
 - State plan



Executive Order - Threats

Factors

- ▣ Habitat loss and fragmentation due to:
 - Wildfire/ Invasive species (i.e. cheatgrass)
 - Infrastructure/ energy development
- ▣ Inadequate regulatory mechanisms



Task Force Meetings

- ▣ Task Force co-chaired by Governor's Office and IDFG
- ▣ Similar to Idaho Roadless Rule process
- ▣ Collaborative
- ▣ State agencies were technical and policy advisors
- ▣ Open to the public
- ▣ Public comment at the end of each meeting

Task Force Meetings

- ▣ 8 meeting between March – May 2012
- ▣ Expert subject speakers (e.g. grouse, threats)
- ▣ Sub-committees for threats
- ▣ Working Task Force meetings
- ▣ Sub-committee meetings
- ▣ Homework
- ▣ Webpage
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/?getPage=310>

Task Force Meetings

- ▣ Subcommittees submitted draft recommendations
- ▣ Task Force voted on subcommittee recommendations
- ▣ Task Force submitted recommendations to Governor's Office (June 2012)
- ▣ Public comment

Governor's Alternative

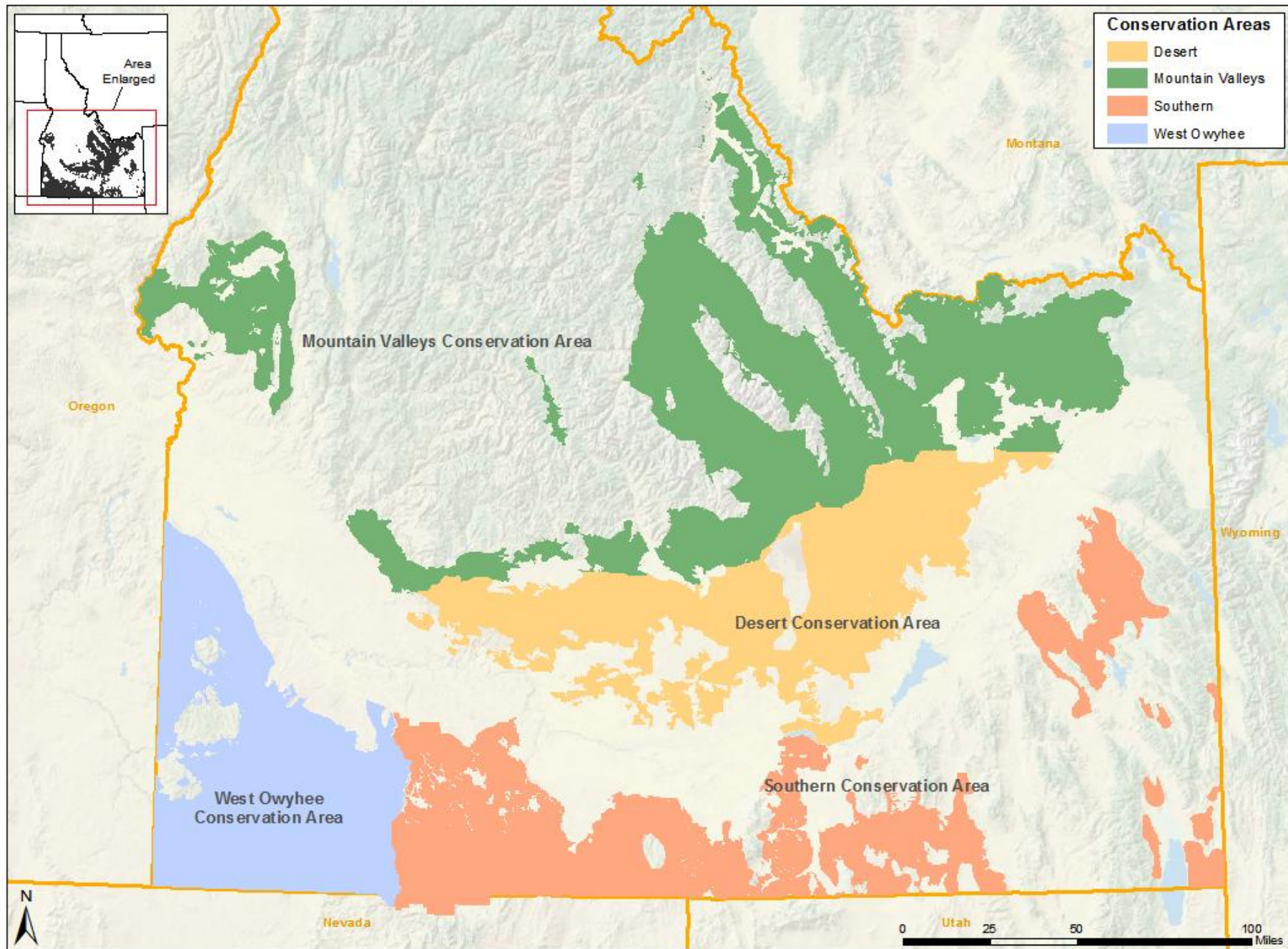
- ▣ Governor's office wrote and submitted an alternative to Secretary of Interior
- ▣ An alternative in the BLM/USFS EIS



Governor's Alternative

- ▣ Goal - preclude the need to list the species.
- ▣ Overall objective - conserve the species and its habitat while maintaining predictable uses of the land.
 - Objective 1: Implement regulatory mechanism
 - Objective 2: Stabilize habitats and populations
 - Objective 3: Implement adaptive regulatory triggers

Sage Grouse Conservation Areas

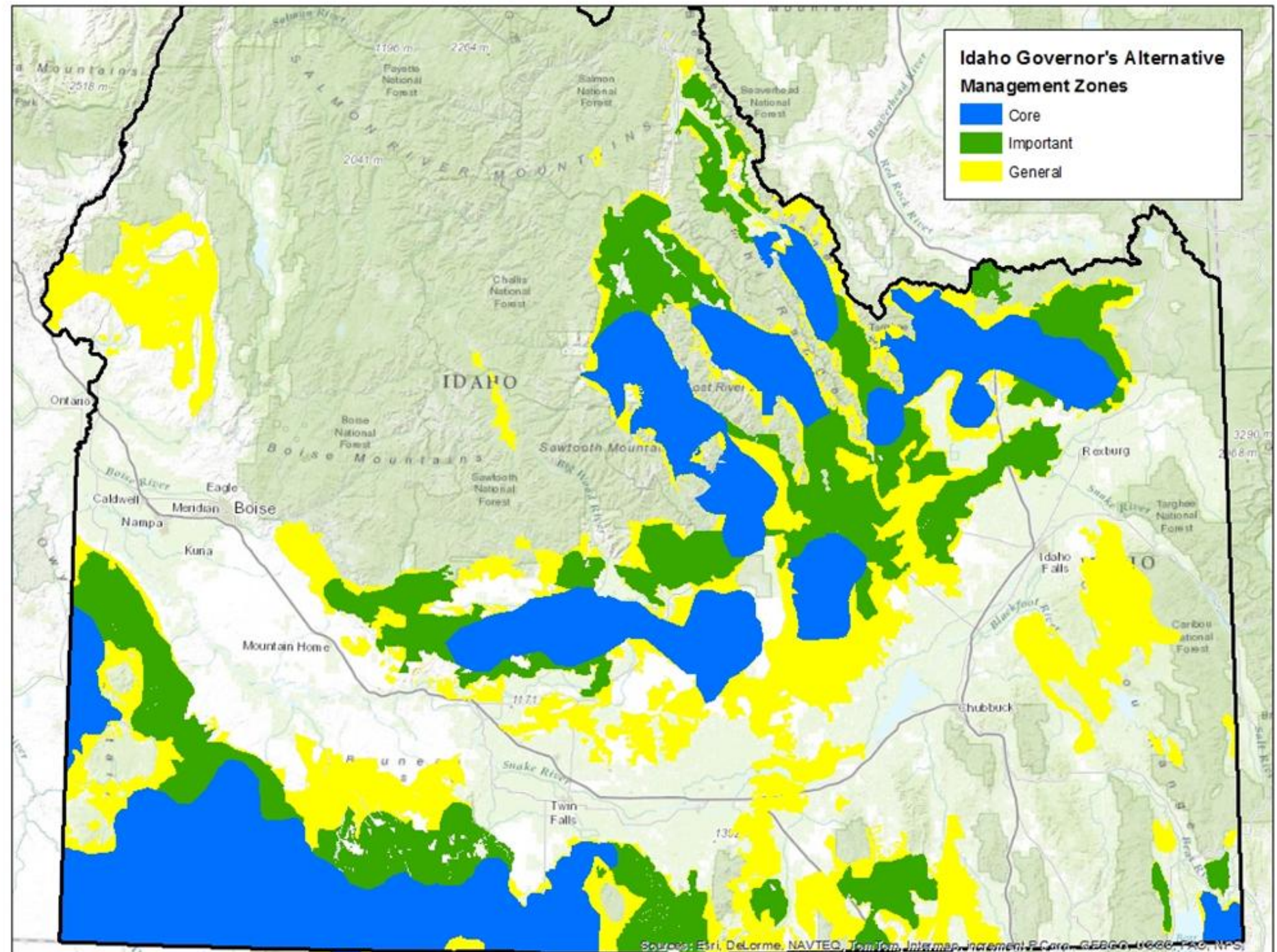


Habitat Management Zones

- ▣ Core Habitat Zones – 73%
 - ▣ Important Habitat Zones – 22%
 - ▣ General Habitat Zones - 5%
-
- ▣ Scaled management criteria to address threats in each zone

Idaho Governor's Alternative Management Zones

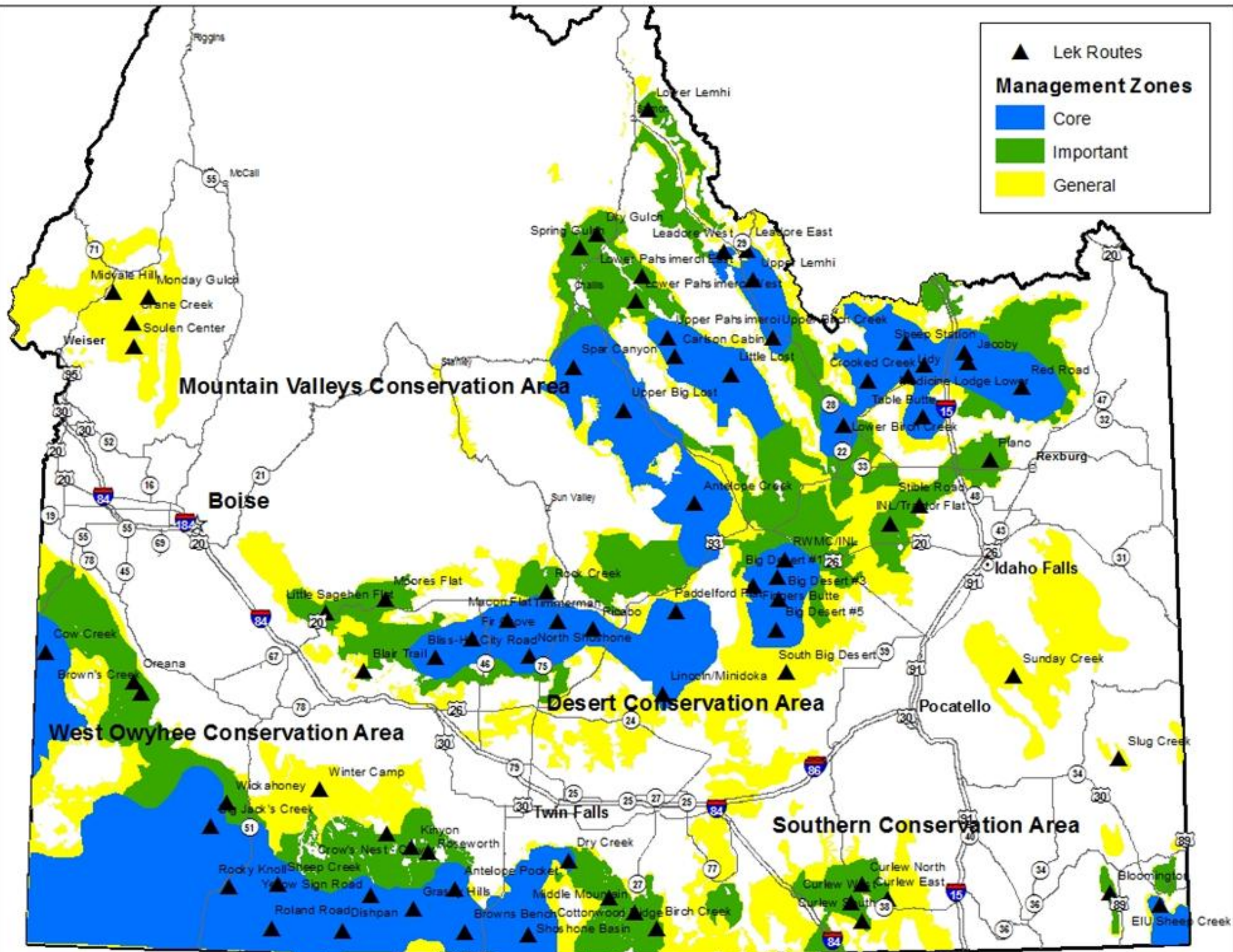
- Core
- Important
- General



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FRC, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), and the GIS User Community

Adaptive Regulatory Triggers

- ▣ Baseline – 2011 populations and habitats
- ▣ Population Trigger - Core
 - Soft trigger – 10% decline in males counted
 - Hard trigger – 20% decline in males counted
 - Rate of change
- ▣ Habitat Trigger - Core
 - Soft trigger – 10% loss of nesting/winter habitat
 - Hard trigger – 20% loss of nesting/winter habitat



Conservation Measures

- ▣ Wildfire
 - rural fire districts
 - focused resources

- ▣ Infrastructure
 - Core - no development unless . . .
 - Important - development if . . .
 - General - development.

Governor's Alternative

- ▣ Collaborative
- ▣ Pro-active conservation actions
- ▣ Outcome based scientific strategy
- ▣ Adaptive
- ▣ Testing driving components

Governor's Alternative

- ▣ New - unknown
- ▣ Biggest threat is **not** an on/off switch
- ▣ Funding for implementation, prevention, suppression, and restoration

What's Next?

- ▣ BLM's Draft EIS public review in September 2013
- ▣ Final EIS Completed September 2014
- ▣ Seeking USFWS concurrence
- ▣ Short term focus
 - replace current interim management protocols with Governor's Alternative



Questions?

